

MURDERERS OF AMERICANS IN MEXICO FREE, LANSING HEARS

Reports to State Department Fail to Tell of Single Case in Which Bandits Have Been Executed.

Customs Collector at Border Declares Rodriguez and Baca-Valles May Not Have Been Involved.

As far as the State Department has been advised, not a single one of the Villista bandits responsible for the massacre of the seventeen Americans near Santa Ysabel, Mexico, has been captured and punished.

The Americans were murdered on January 10. On the day following the American Government dispatched a note to General Carranza, first chief of the de facto government, calling upon him to pursue, capture and punish immediately all those responsible for the outrage.

Pending compliance by Carranza with these demands, the Administration has been bending every effort to withstand the pressure in Congress in favor of armed intervention.

MAY BE INNOCENT.

Although the State Department received today from Collector of Customs Cobb at El Paso a report that the bodies of Rodriguez and Baca-Valles, captured and executed by Carranza soldiers, had been placed on exhibition in Juarez as proof of what the Carranza authorities were doing to run down the perpetrators of the massacre, Cobb stated that there was no proof whatever that these men were involved in the murders.

Rodriguez, Cobb stated, was blowing up bridges in eastern Chihuahua at the time of the massacre, and probably had nothing to do with the attack. There is nothing, he says, to show that Baca-Valles, who was known as Villa's "butcher," was involved.

How long the American Government proposes to wait for the Carranza authorities to avenge the massacre, officials at the State Department and White House refuse to say. They state that Carranza will be given a "decent chance" to comply.

Hasn't Submitted Report.

Secretary Lansing has not yet submitted to the President the special report which he has prepared to be sent to the Senate in response to the Fall resolution. This will be done, it was indicated today, within the next day or two.

It is thought possible that the President will supplement the report with a statement of his own defending his action.

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ENGLAND TO MAKE PEOPLE ECONOMIZE

Government Prepares to Take Drastic Steps to End All Extravagance in Kingdom.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—The British government is preparing to take drastic steps to force economy of the United Kingdom to economize and relieve the international exchange situation, President Walter Runciman, of the board of trade, informed Commons this afternoon.

It is possible, Runciman announced, that the government may shut out from all English ports articles not considered strictly necessary.

The United States, it is understood, will be the principal sufferers if the government adopts this program.

ESTIMATES GERMAN LOSS AT 2,525,769

LONDON, Jan. 19.—German casualties in the war total 2,525,769. Under Secretary for War Tennant announced in the House of Commons this afternoon. The Germans have lost 512,000 and 2,013,769 in wounded, Tennant announced.

Austro-Montenegrin Parley Rumored Broken

LONDON, Jan. 19.—Peace negotiations between Austria and Montenegro have been broken off, according to an unconfirmed wireless report from Rome today.

The dispatch said that reports of the surrender of the Montenegrin army were "premature."

The report is accepted with some reserve in view of confirmation of the report of Montenegro's surrender by Montenegrin diplomats in Rome and Paris.

ALLIES CALL WAR COUNCIL MEETING

French Premier Attends hurriedly Called Session of Entente Delegates.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—With startling suddenness, following swiftly moving events in the Balkans, the allies war council was summoned for a meeting today.

Shortly before noon, military representatives of the allied powers, accompanied by Premier Briand, of France, went into session at Downing street.

The French premier's presence indicates that political matters of the greatest importance are to be discussed in addition to the military situation. His arrival in London was the first intimation that the council was to meet today.

Deny Ultimatum.

The foreign office has issued a statement denying the rumor that any ultimatum had been delivered to Greece, while fast upon it came Athens reports that all Greek troops are being withdrawn from the Greco-Bulgarian frontier, and that a transport had landed Serbian troops at Salonika.

Despatches from Rotterdam and from German sources report a revolutionary movement on foot in Greece supported by Premier Venizelos, junior of King Constantine's government falling with the reconvening of the new Greek Parliament on Monday.

The foreign office statement discredited these reports, and "believed" them untrue.

No session of the war council has been held, it was recalled today, since the December sessions in Paris, when the council met for the first time.

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ENGLAND ASKS FOR 50,000 MORE MEN

Believed to Be Preliminary Step Toward Strengthening the Blockade of All Germany.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—Provision for the addition of 50,000 more men to the British navy was looked upon in some quarters today as a preliminary step toward the laying of a blockade of the entire German coast.

The public has not been permitted to learn how many new ships have been added to the navy since the war began. It was recently stated, however, that fourteen super-dreadnaughts as well as scores of smaller craft have been completed, and are ready for service. The fact that 50,000 men are to be added to the navy personnel indicates that the increase in new ships is surprisingly large.

The addition of these forces will place about 200,000 men at the disposition of the admiralty.

VAN HORN GOT CHECK BEFORE EXPLOSION

Von Papen Wrote It to Dynamiter's Order on January 18, 1915. Check Stub Shows.

LONDON, Jan. 19.—The \$500 check which Count Franz von Papen, the German military attaché stationed at Washington, wrote to the order of Werner Van Horn was dated January 18, 1915. This is shown by an inspection of the stub of the check.

It was on February 2, 1915—thirteen days later than Van Horn attempted to dynamite the Canadian Pacific railroad bridge at Vancouber, B.C.

Two Zeppelins Brought Down by French Fire

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 19.—Two Zeppelins, damaged by French fire, fell behind the German lines north of Rheims, January 11, according to Maasrict advertisements today.

STREET CARS TIE-UPS NOW UNDER PROBE

Public Utilities Commission Has Twelve Agents Observing Railway Conditions.

PROMISES TO GIVE RELIEF

Officials Hope Campaign Will Result in Improved Conditions Within a Month.

Twelve agents of the Public Utilities Commission are scattered over Washington to observe traffic conditions at transfer points.

This is the beginning of a campaign which the commission hopes will, within the coming month, produce information upon which recommendations may be based to better conditions, especially at Fourteenth and F streets northwest.

In ordering this survey, the Public Utilities Commission took into consideration complaints received from the public regarding the overcrowding of street cars, and the delays caused by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing cars at Fourteenth and F streets.

"We have hopes of being able to do something to relieve the Fourth and F street transfer congestion," said an official of the Public Utilities Commission today. "This, however, cannot be accomplished until a general survey is made. If changes were ordered now to vary the point of transfer, to increase the number of cars, or even to change the routing, congestion might result at some other point. And so nothing will be done until the commission has a full knowledge of the conditions existing in Washington City in general."

To Report in Two Weeks.

"The investigators, who have just started to work, will report probably within two weeks. Another two weeks will elapse before their findings are digested. Then the commission will be ready to make recommendations."

An investigation which has been conducted independently of the Public Utilities Commission, and which could result in the establishment of a new transfer point, is being conducted by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. It is due to the fact that the short block between F and G streets on Fourteenth is a trunk line track for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Thirteenth and D streets northeast and other terminals.

Residents from all of the sections on the main line of the street car system utilize this as a point of transfer for the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, Thirteenth and D streets northeast and other terminals.

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Congestion Normal Condition.

An unofficial survey of the handling of crowds at Fifteenth street and New York avenue by the Capital Traction Company, where congestion is the normal condition, showed little delay to any of the cars during the rush hours today.

This, it has been suggested, is due to the establishment of a number of transfer points to distribute the passenger traffic. Every southbound car on the Fourteenth street line stops just east of Fifteenth street and New York avenue to permit passengers to alight, or to transfer. Every northbound car on the Fourteenth street line stops just west of Fifteenth street and New York avenue to take on transferred and new passengers from other lines. Two starters are continually busy at these points handling the traffic.

At 3:45 o'clock yesterday morning at the Fourteenth and F street transfer point, the congestion, due to the stopping of a bureau car on the north side of the intersection, instead of the south side as would be the case if the Washington Railway and Electric Company followed the general plan adopted by the other line, became so bad that it was impossible for traffic to pass. There was a solid line of cars extending from that point to beyond Fourteenth and F streets.

At 3:45 o'clock bureau car 641 occurred the longest delay of the morning. It stopped for more than a minute while about two dozen passengers took their own time boarding it.

Another considerable delay occurred at 3:41 o'clock. Wharf car 96, arriving at the transfer point, stopped for passengers. City Hall car 628 and wharf car 211 followed in the same block. The delay was caused by a full minute elapsed before this jam could be broken by the movement of the wharf car.

"Appeal to Reason" Editor Is Suicide in Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla., Jan. 19.—J. O. Weldon, socialist state chairman of Oklahoma, editor of The Appeal to Reason, was shot and killed in a room of the Kingsaid hotel here today.

He was to have been married to Miss Olive Todd, daughter of a prominent oil man tonight.

Kaiser Arrives at Nish; Greeted by Bulgar Czar

BERLIN (via wireless) (Says) (Says), Jan. 19.—The Kaiser has arrived in Nish, former provisional capital of Serbia, where he was warmly greeted by the Bulgarian Czar Ferdinand.

DEATH TREATMENT FOR BURGERS MOHR, WITNESS SAYS

"Other Woman's" Brother-in-Law Asserts She Declared She Could Hire Thugs.

TESTIFIES OF 'MURDER TALK'

Defendant Quoted as Saying Miss Burger Would Not Live to Wed Husband.

PROVIDENCE, Jan. 19.—The direct charge that Mrs. Elizabeth Mohr had declared she "could hire a couple of thugs and have Dr. Mohr murdered," was made by George Rooks, the witness stand today when he was called by the State in the trial of the slain physician's widow, charged with instigating the mysterious shooting of her husband.

Rooks admitted that he brought Dr. Mohr and Miss Emily Burger, who was with the physician in the "murder case" when he was killed, together. He said he was Miss Burger's brother-in-law.

Rooks told of Miss Mohr's visits to his office and of the post card he received from the physician's wife, threatening the young woman with death should she again visit the Mohr home at Newport.

"On her first visit to my office in January, 1915, Mrs. Mohr said she could hire a couple of thugs and have Dr. Mohr murdered," said Rooks. "She said Miss Burger would never live to marry her husband, but said she would give the doctor a divorce for \$2,000 and a home. She said she thought Miss Burger was after Dr. Mohr's money, and was going to get after her some day."

Written Threat Revealed.

A second written death threat against Miss Burger was revealed when the letter Rooks is alleged to have received from Mrs. Mohr was read to the jury.

"I am going to get after her some day," it said. "I am going to get the most of me. I will kill her before I am through with the whole thing. She showed me a low person she is. When I asked her to stay away from me, she said she would be with me before many days. I have given her my warning."

Despite her warning, Mrs. Mohr appeared unusually bright today when she took the stand in the courtroom. She smiled and chatted with Captain and Fitzgibbon.

James L. Lusk, deputy of the Rhode Island Hospital, was the first witness. He testified that on the night of August 25, when Mohr was brought to the hospital, Lusk told of the contents of the dead man's pockets. He said his hands were soiled when he got around to search the doctor's pockets, and "perhaps" had some red finger prints on his hands and clothing.

"I gave my finger prints to the police at the request of the detective," he continued. "I have known Miss Burger for about twenty years. I have known her since she was a girl. She is a very nice person. She is a very nice person. She is a very nice person."

Tells of Alleged Threat.

"On her first visit to my office in January, 1915, Mrs. Mohr said she could hire a couple of thugs and have Dr. Mohr murdered," Rooks testified. "She said Miss Burger would never live to marry her husband, but said she would give the doctor a divorce for \$2,000 and a home. She said she thought Miss Burger was after Dr. Mohr's money, and was going to get after her some day."

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PLAZA COMMISSION OUT OF EXISTENCE

Final Report Goes to White House for Examination by President.

The final report of the Union Station plaza commission was laid before President Wilson today by the members of the commission. W. R. Stoddard, chairman, said the commission had completed its task and automatically went out of existence.

President Wilson requested the commission to let him make the report public after he has had opportunity to examine it. It is understood that the document showed a saving over the original estimate of \$200,000.

The commission's award for the properties of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, which was not accepted by the company, was approximately \$1,400,000, and has turned over to the Treasury an unexpended balance of more than \$1,000,000, or a sum sufficient to meet the payments for the railroad property, should the Baltimore and Ohio decide to accept the award. The members of the commission received \$20 a day each as salaries.

U.S. TROOPERS CAPTURED MEXICAN BANDITS

DOUGLAS, Ariz., Jan. 19.—Mexican bandits captured seven United States cavalymen following a fight on American soil south of Hachita, N. M., according to a telephone message received here today after a cowboy arrived at Hachita with the report. Fifty cavalymen and a number of cowboys started in pursuit of the Mexicans and their captives.

If the report is true it is feared the bandits may execute the American soldiers.

Navy Administration Is Bitterly Criticised By Admiral Fletcher

Sweeping Charges Made by Atlantic Fleet Commander in Report to Senate.

IS ANSWERED BY DANIELS

Cabinet Officer Declares Deficiencies Pointed Out Are of Long Standing.

Sweeping in its criticism of the United States navy under the present Administration, the hitherto suppressed report of Admiral F. J. Fletcher, commander-in-chief of the Atlantic fleet, was made public today by the Senate Naval Affairs Committee.

Attached to the report is a lengthy communication to the committee from Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels, in which the latter charges that the deficiencies and weaknesses of the fleet of which Admiral Fletcher complains are of long standing.

He declares that many of these shortcomings were brought about under a system adopted by his predecessors in the office of secretary of the Navy, but insists that since Admiral Fletcher's report was submitted to him in August, 1915, he has taken steps to remedy some of the weaknesses.

Admiral Fletcher directs particular attention to the large shortage in officers and men necessary for the proper handling of the ships of the fleet, the lack of funds and the consequent lack of repairs to the ships, he states, it is seldom that more than twelve of the twenty-one battleships now in commission are able to operate with the fleet.

In the number of enlisted men, the Admiral states, the battleship squadron alone is 5,000 below the number necessary to handle the fleet properly, and he declares it would be far less dangerous to retire some of the ships than to attempt to operate them with insufficient men. In this connection he calls attention to the fact that at the last battle efficiency inspection, petty officers and headless ensigns were found to be in command of turrets and other parts of the work expected of commissioned officers of long training.

Admiral Fletcher urges a revocation of Secretary of the Navy Daniels' order, which requires all enlisted men in the fleet to attend school on shipboard. With the compulsory feature omitted he says, there would be more opportunity and facilities for teaching and helping those who really want to advance themselves.

Other defects of the fleet he sums up in the following order: Lack of fast armored ships and fast light cruisers, limitations of mobility, and seagoing qualities of submarines, lack of aircraft, lack of radio direction finder, too frequent overhaul of battleships, need of more modern minesweeping vessels, desirability of mobilizing ships in reserve annually with the active fleet, need of battle target practice at longer ranges, and need for greater speed in the fighting ships.

Accuses Predecessor. In his letter to the committee accompanying the report, Secretary Daniels places responsibility for practically all the defects upon his predecessors, and insists that under his administration of the navy he has taken many steps to improve conditions. He does not, however, refer to the Admiral's references to the compulsory school attendance of enlisted men, which the Secretary himself inaugurated.

"In conclusion, Mr. Chairman," the Secretary states in the last paragraph of his letter, "let me add that the foregoing facts demonstrate conclusively that the fleet is better organized, the ships more fully manned and more completely officered than heretofore, that our gunnery is steadily improving, and that most of the requirements of the fleet, considered by the commanding general, while of long standing, have already been largely corrected."

When Admiral Fletcher's report was sent to the Senate a few days ago it was ordered printed as a confidential document and referred to the Naval Committee. This afternoon Senator Tillman, after calling attention to statements about the report in the newspapers, said he Democratic members were at all times willing to have the report made public. Senator Lodge thereupon asked that the document be made public and said that he had asked it to be kept secret under a misapprehension. The order of secrecy was thereupon rescinded.

Mechanics in U. S. Navy Yards to Get Increase

Secretary of the Navy announced today that master mechanics in all government yards will receive a 5 per cent increase of wages. The order, however, does not include the Washington Navy Yard, the increase here having been granted some time ago.

NEWMAN ASKS HOUSE TO PASS SUBSTITUTE SCHOOL BILL

Explains to Subcommittee Why Commissioners Urge Abolishment of Board of Education Here.

Offers Concession to Opponents by Giving Jurisdiction Over Principals and Teachers to Director.

Commissioner Oliver P. Newman today told the subcommittee on education of the House District Committee why the Commissioners want complete jurisdiction over the public school system and the abolishment of the Board of Education, and offered to the committee a substitute bill carrying these recommendations into effect.

The substitute bill offers a concession to the opponents of the proposed legislation that it provides that appointments, promotions, removals and transfers of principals and teachers shall be made by the director of education and not by the Commissioners as originally suggested.

Another statement made by Commissioner Newman in the way of compromise was that the present board of Commissioners is quite willing to have the proposed change in the public school system postponed in effectiveness until the present Commissioners are out of office, although the legislation is desired now.

Another important development of the initial hearing before the House subcommittee was the assertion by Commissioner Newman that President Wilson is in favor of various administrative reforms affecting the District government.

TOLD BY PRESIDENT.

Mr. Newman said he would not quote the President as suggesting any specific reforms, including the change in the school system, but that the President two years ago had told the commissioners to proceed with an inquiry to determine legislation necessary to make this a better governed city.

"The general plan of legislation we have submitted to Congress," said Mr. Newman, "is the result of our inquiry and the President's suggestion."

Mr. Newman referred to the various legislative matters treated in the Commissioners' estimates, which carried the original proposal for the abolishment of the Board of Education.

That President Taft, as early as 1910, had recommended that the Commissioners assume full control over the public schools was brought to the attention of the committee today by Commissioner Newman and Corporation Counsel Conrad H. Syme.

Mr. Syme in his argument said the Board of Education had not made a financial report within four years. He said he did not know of any such report, but that the President had a charge as required to make such a statement, and it was indicative of the unsatisfactory situation found in divided authority over the schools.

Two Speeches Each.

At the outset of the hearing today Congressman Ben Johnson, ex-officio member of the subcommittee, said the committee would like to hear two extended speeches on each side of the school board controversy, and then would determine what other arguments would be presented.

He said that the President of the Board of Education, is scheduled to make the principal argument in opposition to the Commissioners' plan at the afternoon session of the committee.

Commissioner Louis Brownlow, who was present today, may also be heard. The hearings were held in the big Democratic caucus room, because of the large attendance.

Following the conclusion of Mr. Syme's argument the committee adjourned for lunch.

Substitute Is Offered.

The substitute bill proposed by the Commissioners for the measure recently introduced at their request, was offered to the subcommittee as soon as Commissioner Newman began his argument in favor of a change in the management of the school system.

The principal difference in the two bills, the Commissioner said, was that the substitute measure provided specifically that all appointments, promotions, removals and transfers were to be made by the director of education. The original bill provided that "all appointments and transfers be made by the director of education."

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Rear Admiral F. J. FLETCHER.